(c) the time schedule and estimated cost of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c): Survey for a rail bridge across river Ganga near Patna completed in February, 1991 revealed that the cost of the work would be around Rs. 468 crores with a negative financial return. Due to constraint of resources, it has not been found feasible to take up this work for the present.

Sale of scrap in railways

3945. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the type of railway material/property which is sold as scrap;

(b) what is the procedure adopted by the railways to dispose of the scrap;

(c) what was the income of the railways from the sale of scrap during the last three sales (sale-wise) and by what percentage the price was lower/higher;

(d) whether Government have taken any measures to plug the loopholes in the procedure to check the possibility of any nexus between the officials and the scrap buyers; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Released unserviceable rails and other permanent way materials, condemned locomotives, coaches and wagons, other unserviceable ferrous scrap mostly re-rollable or melting quality, non-ferrous scrap, condemned machinery and plant, waste oil, waste paper, scrap wood including shaving, sawdust, unserviceable wooden sleepers, unserviceable empty drums & barrels etc. form bulk of railway material sold as scrap.

(b) Scrap materials on Railways are arranged in proper lots. These lots are sold generally through public auctions for which adequate publicity is given in the newspapers. Some scrap materials are also sold through advertised tenders. Sometimes direct sale is arranged for the needs of the other Government Departments.

(c) Each zonal Railway conducts several auctions each month from various locations. Information relating to the last three sales from each zonal Railway is indicated below:—

Sale Value of last Three Auctions

(Value in lakhs of Rs.)

Railways	1st Sale	IInd Sale	IIIrd Sale
Central	62	84	268
Eastern	54	22	94
Northern	76	89	31
North Eastern	29	24	28
Northeast Frontier	36	*Nil	*Nil
Southern	18	144	168
South Central	133	234	310
South Eastern	18	65	104
Western	33	17	25

*Auctions were held on 9.7.92 and 25.7.92 but nothing could be sold.

Auction Sale is always in favour of the highest bidder of public auction and the bids considered below the market price are rejected;

(d) Yes, Sir.

(c) Following measures are being adopted to avoid any nexus between buyers and officials:—

(i) The Sale of scrap is conducted through public auctions or through open tender.

(ii) At the time of delivery of scrap, representatives of three departments, viz. Stock-holder, Accounts and security Departments are required to witness correct delivery of the sold lot.

(iii) Periodical/surprise checks are conducted by independent supervisors as also Vigilance Organisation of the Railways during the process of delivery of the sold lots.

(iv) Senior Officers from Headquarters monitor rates realised in auctions in the nearby locations as also market trend of scrap rates, etc.

Surcharge collected by the Indian Railways

3946. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the analytical news-report which appeared in the Times of India dated 10th July, 1992 by the Syndicate columnist, Pushpa Girimaji, on the unjustified surcharges collected by the Indian Railways;

(b) whether such unfair imposts and trade practices are proposed to be withdrawn from Government enterprises; and

(c) whether such cases would be referred suo moto by the consumer National Protection Council or the Department to the Consumer Grievances Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no unfair imposts and trade practices in levying Supplementary Charge on Superfast trains.

(c) Does not arise.

Employment on compassionate grounds in Railways

3947. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a deliberate delay on the part of the officials in FA & CAO, South Central Railway, Secunderabad in providing employment to the wards of the deceased employees on compassionate grounds;

(b) the number of persons who were provided employment in the last two years in respect of Class IV posts;

(c) the number of cases where there was a delay for more than three months or six months; and

(d) by when they are likely to be absorbed to mitigate their hardships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Accidents involving suburban local trains

3948. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last three years, many accidents involving suburban local trains have taken place over the Central Railway and Western Railway Network in and around Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that once again the suburban services of both Central and Western Railways get frequently disorganised and cause great inconvenience to the suburban commuters in Bombay;